

## GENERAL REVIEW

The East African Bird Report should, in future, provide an annual summary of interesting records, a regular review of the Society's Nest Record Scheme, and a brief account of bird ringing. Accounts of ornithological work in progress and of literature relevant to the region are also planned as regular features.

Records which extend knowledge of distribution or status within East Africa will be published after consideration by the ornithological sub-committee. These will include all records of scarce or little known species, records of range extension in species of limited distribution, reports of unusual numbers and records of unusual dates and localities for migrants. In the case of Palaearctic species, guidelines as to records required for the Report were set out in *Scopus* 1: 54-55. The Society's *Birds of East Africa*, to be published during 1979, should provide a future basis for evaluating records of Ethiopian species. Requests for records of selected commoner species will be made from time to time, and the results of such enquiries reviewed in the Report.

Although future Reports will deal primarily with records for the calendar year concerned, this first publication covers the period July 1976 to December 1977. The reason for this is that the sub-committee published a backlog of reports of Palaearctics (*Scopus* 1: 39-43, 78-81), which extended the record for Kenya and Tanzania to June 1976, and it seemed desirable to provide as much continuity as possible.

The Society organizes two major ornithological schemes, the Ringing Scheme and the Nest Record Scheme. Full reports on the first of these have appeared regularly in the *Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society and National Museum*, and it is intended that only a brief review of ringing activity should appear in the Bird Report. On the other hand, a regular review of the Nest Record Scheme has been lacking in the past, and the Report provides a new opportunity of publishing an annual summary of new records acquired. This happens to be the ideal time to initiate such summaries, since the analysis of East African breeding records shortly to be published in the Society's *Journal* takes into account material collected by the scheme up to June 1976.

Most of the material for this Report was received from Kenya, but we would hope in future to hear from more Tanzania and Uganda based observers. There were a number of additions to the East African avifauna as well as interesting distributional records, particularly of Palaearctic migrants, while work in the Kakamega, Sokoke and Usambara forest areas clarified the status of some scarce or endangered species.

After a succession of dry years in East Africa, the period covered by this report has been one of excessive rainfall, and has, as a result, been ornithologically noteworthy in several respects. Prolonged rains late in 1976 were followed in 1977 by the wettest April-May that most areas had experienced for 16 years, during which extensive flooding occurred in western and central Kenya, and along the lower Tana River. Rain was again unusually heavy during November and December 1977, with considerable effects on waterbird numbers and distribution.

## ETHIOPIANS

After the April-May rains dams and ponds were unusually full, and some large floodlakes were created in west and central Kenya. In the Rift Valley temporary lakes near Magadi were populated by duck and many hundreds of Red-knobbed Coots *Fulica cristata*, but more noteworthy was

the floodlake southwest of Ngong which provided a breeding site for considerable numbers of Spoonbills *Platalea alba*, cormorants, ducks and grebes during June - September. Elsewhere, Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis* in particular were very quick to populate these new waters. On the coast, many herons were reported on floods between Malindi and Lamu from May - September 1977. The Garsen heronry was unvisited owing to its inaccessibility, but it was suspected that successful breeding took place in the area.

Seed-eating passerines appeared in large numbers and variety in central Kenya during May - July 1977, but were not particularly in evidence, and did not appear to be breeding at this time in the Tsavo area, where the April rains had also been well above normal. The southeastern Kenyan bush country also had an above-normal growth of vegetation during December - January 1976/77, and this, by contrast, resulted in a particularly good breeding season for such post-rains visitors as Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegourguei* and White-winged Widow Bird *Euplectes albonotatus*, whilst an abnormally marked influx of Ethiopian passerines in and around Tsavo West, including many Fire-fronted Bishops *Euplectes diadematus* and Singing Bush Larks *Mirafraga cantillans*, was noted.

#### PALAEARCTICS

Amongst Palaearctic visitors, ducks and waders were greatly affected by changing water levels. Wintering duck numbers at traditional sites in the west and central Kenyan highlands, and also at Lake Turkana, were very much lower in late 1977 than during the winter of 1976/77. This probably reflected a greater dispersal within Kenya, with more open water available, but with unusually high rainfall north of the Kenyan border late in 1977 there was perhaps also less tendency for duck to migrate south of Ethiopia. At Naivasha, Bogoria and Ferguson's Gulf, rising water levels covered muddy lake edges, and wader numbers were greatly reduced late in 1977 compared with the previous year. At Nakuru, on the other hand, the advancing lakeshore once again covered the mud flats and flooded into bordering vegetation, recreating shallow pools attractive to waders. Here, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* numbers were higher during December 1977 than they had been for several years.

During 1976/77 there were increased numbers of reports from Kenya of seldom recorded Palaearctic raptors. Amongst these the Imperial Eagles *Aquila heliaca* of late 1977 perhaps deserve mention. Passerine migration was observed in the usual Kenyan localities. Concentrations dominated by Sprossers *Luscinia luscinia*, Whitethroats *Sylvia communis* and Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* were recorded late in both years under consideration in inland southeast Kenya, not only at Ngulia but also in the Kibwezi and Voi areas, and in great density in the Taita foothills. Southward movement was marked in 1976 as far west as Thika and Nairobi, but was little in evidence in the central highlands in 1977. April passage around Nairobi featured the usual spring warblers and shrikes, and despite the phenomenal rainfall numbers were in no way remarkable. A large fall of Whitethroats took place at the Ngulia Lodge lights during a heavy storm on the night of 12/13 April, but elsewhere in Tsavo and adjacent bush country relatively few migrants were in evidence. In contrast to the spring of 1976, the coastal strip also experienced little in the way of warbler and *Luscinia* spp. during April 1977.

#### OCEANICS

Increased attention is being paid to oceanic species by ornithologists

resident at the coast and by others visiting the area. Most noteworthy were records of two species new to the Ethiopian region fauna: the Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* and the Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris*, both breeding in the Malagasy region.

#### APOLOGIA

The sub-committee is very aware that this General Review, and the Report itself, has a strong Kenya bias. We hope that in the future observers resident in, or visitors to, Tanzania and Uganda will make a point of sending in their records for consideration for the Bird Report. Lastly, the sub-committee would like to draw attention to the fact that *Scopus* welcomes contributions 'on all aspects of the ornithology of eastern Africa pertinent to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda' (see *Scopus* 1: 55 and inside the front cover of this issue). Thus, in the context of the Bird Report, records from neighbouring countries close to the borders of the three East African states will be most welcome.

*D.J. Pearson, Chairman, E.A.N.H.S. Ornithological Sub-committee*

#### SPECIES REPORT

As mentioned above, this section of the Bird Report covers the period July 1976 to December 1977; in future it will deal with records from one calendar year although records from previous years will be published if they have come to light.

The records given below have resulted from requests published in *Scopus* (1: 54-55, 111-112). In addition all issues of the *National Museums of Kenya, Department of Ornithology, Newsletter* relevant to the period under review have been scrutinized. When records have appeared in the *Newsletter* falling under categories covered by the Bird Report, the sub-committee has written to the observers concerned asking for supporting evidence or more precise details of the observations, in accordance with the instructions of the Editor of the *Newsletter*, as given, for example, in its second issue. *Newsletter* records for which fully satisfactory details have been supplied are included below, whereas in some cases substantiation has unfortunately not been forthcoming, hence the absence of these records from the list which follows.

For ease of reference the species report is presented in two parts, first the Ethiopian region birds and oceanics, second the Palaearctics.

#### ETHIOPIAN REGION BIRDS AND OCEANICS

##### PODICIPEDIDAE Grebes

*Podiceps cristatus* Great Crested Grebe: many, Lakes Lygarja and Masek in the eastern Serengeti, Tanzania Apr-Jun 1977 (AG). Many, Rift Valley swamps behind the Ngong Hills Jun-Oct 1977 (DKR).

*Podiceps nigricollis* Black-necked Grebe: recorded Lake Bogoria Jan 1977 (HP), few pairs Lake Naivasha Feb-Mar 1977 (BSM), large numbers Lakes

Lygarja and Masek, eastern Serengeti, Tanzania Apr-June 1977 (AG), many Rift Valley swamps behind the Ngong Hills, Jun-Aug with a few remaining through to Dec 1977 (JFR), 1 Lake Nakuru 20 Dec 1977 (HAB, PLB) and a pair on Lake Paradise, Marsabit late Dec 1977 (HP).

#### PROCELLARIIDAE Shearwaters and petrels

*Puffinus thermanteri* Audubon's Shearwater: 1 off Shimoni 29 Jan 1977 and at least 60 off Kilifi 12 Feb 1977 (PLB).

#### HYDROBATIDAE Storm Petrels

[*Oceanites oceanicus* Wilson's Storm Petrel: descriptions of small storm petrels in flocks off Watamu (AD & PSD) and Shimoni (PH) in mid-Nov 1977 probably relate to this species. The occurrence in our waters of any other small, square-tailed, black-bellied, white-rumped storm petrel is highly unlikely.]

#### PHAETHONTIDAE Tropicbirds

*Phaethon lepturus* White-tailed Tropicbird: 1 near Latham Island, Tanzania 2 Apr 1977 (ELC).

#### SULIDAE Boobies

*Sula dactylatra* Masked Booby: records away from Latham Island are as follows: 1 found dead Watamu Aug 1976 (PSD) and 1 seen off Watamu Sep 1976 (GR).

*Sula leucogaster* Brown Booby: 1 off Kilifi 12 Feb 1977 (PLB).

*Sula sula* Red-footed Booby: 1 off Kilifi 24 Oct 1976 (PLB) - first African record, see *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 97: 54-56.

#### ARDEIDAE Herons

*Ardeola idae* Madagascar Squacco Heron: a few Lake Jipe 3-4 Apr 1977 (DKR) and 1 in Nairobi National Park 17 Sep 1977 (WJP).

*Egretta ardesiaca* Black Heron: regular at Lake Jipe (DAT), 200+ at Lake Bilisa 25 Feb 1977 (PLB, PD) and seen regularly in small numbers in Mida Creek (HAB, PLB).

*Ixobrychus minutus* ssp. Little Bittern: 1 University of Dar es Salaam campus, Tanzania 22 Apr 1977 (KH) and a pair in the Thika area alongside two of the next species, Jun-Jly 1977 (WJP).

*Ixobrychus sturmi* Dwarf Bittern: pair Thika area Jun-Jly 1977 (WJP).

#### BALAENICIPITIDAE Whale-headed Stork

*Balaeniceps rex* Whale-headed Stork: 1-2 seen occasionally in the Entebbe area, Uganda during the year (MC). All records welcomed.

#### CICONIIDAE Storks

*Anastomus lamelligerus* Open-bill Stork: about 20 Samburu Game Reserve 23 Nov 1976 (JADC) and 1 in the Nairobi National Park/Athi River area Mar-Jun 1977 (BSM).

*Ciconia episcopus* Woolly-necked Stork: recorded from Nairobi National Park Apr-Jly 1976 and Aug-Oct 1977 (several observers). Generally uncommon in the Nairobi area.

#### THRESKIORNITHIDAE Ibises and spoonbills

*Bostrychia olivacea* Green Ibis: 2-3 seen fairly regularly at dawn and dusk around the Met. Station (3000m) above Naro Moru, Mt Kenya (DAT).

#### ANATIDAE Ducks and geese

A notable influx of ducks in the Nairobi area (especially White-backed Duck and African Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*) after the exceptionally



heavy rains during 1977. See also under the Nest Record Scheme Report. In addition, the creation of a large area of open water at the north-eastern end of the Enkongo Narok Swamp in Amboseli National Park in 1976 provided excellent habitat for many species of duck which are now resident in the area. For a full list of all water birds recorded see *EANHS Bulletin* May/June 1977.

*Anas sparsa* Black Duck: a few pairs still remaining in the East and West Usambaras in northeastern Tanzania despite widespread habitat destruction and hunting (DAT).

*Dendrocygna bicolor* Fulvous Tree Duck: larger concentrations noted were: 75+ Aruba Dam, Tsavo National Park (East) 12 Feb 1977 (DAT), 40+ Rift Valley swamps behind the Ngong Hills 21 Aug 1977 (DKR), 20 Kisumu oxidation ponds 12 Aug 1977 and 200 there 23 Dec 1977 (BSM), 200+ Mara-gua, near Muran'ga 8 Sep 1977 (DAT). Also noted as 'fairly common' at Lake Jipe in all months (DAT).

*Oxyura maccoa* Maccoa Duck: a few birds resident in the Limuru area during most of 1977. Also present in the Rift Valley Swamps behind the Ngong Hills Jly-Sep 1977 with a maximum of 40 on 28 Aug (several observers). A few at Lake Nakuru throughout the year (DAT) and at Lake Paradise, Marsabit during Dec (HP).

*Thalassornis leucotis* White-backed Duck: resident in some numbers at Lake Jipe throughout the year (DAT).

#### ACCIPITRIDAE Birds of prey

*Gypaetus barbatus* Lammergeyer: reported from Hell's Gate gorge, Naivasha, Telekei Valley, Mt Kenya and the Gol Mts in northeastern Serengeti, Tanzania. All records away from Hell's Gate are most welcome.

*Gypohierax angolensis* Palm-nut Vulture: reported from Watamu, Shimba Hills, Shimoni, Lake Jipe and Mzima Springs (many observers). Resident and fairly common around Amani in the East Usambaras, northeastern Tanzania (DAT).

*Accipiter ovampensis* Ovampo Sparrowhawk: a melanistic pair and a juvenile in Nairobi National Park 3 Aug 1976 (WJP).

*Aviceda cuculoides* Cuckoo Falcon: evidently only a migrant to the coast occurring from May to Oct (HAB, PLB). All records welcomed.

*Butaster rufipennis* Grasshopper Buzzard: formerly a fairly common and widespread bird in Tsavo, from Mtito Andei to Buchuma, occurring each year from November through to February. However, in recent years numbers have decreased considerably and, as such, we welcome all records of this intra-African migrant.

*Chelictinia riccourii* Swallow-tailed Kite: 2 at the Lake Hotel, Naivasha 20 Oct 1976 (DEGB, GCB, GZ). Small numbers recorded from Jly-Dec 1977 in northern areas from Lake Turkana to Mt Kulal and South Horr and occasional sightings from the Mt Suswa area of the Kedong Valley. Also recorded from north of Lake Baringo in July 1976 and from Meru National Park in June 1977 (DAT).

*Circus cinerascens* Banded Harrier Eagle: 1-2 most months along the Thika River (WJP), otherwise very scarce in the Nairobi area. All records east of the Rift Valley welcomed.

*Circus fasciolatus* Southern Banded Harrier Eagle: all Kenya records outside the Arabuko-Soko Forest area welcomed. In Tanzania, common at Amani while in the West Usambaras at Mazumbai (1400 m) one was seen in June 1977 (DAT).

*Hieraaetus dubius* Ayres' Hawk Eagle: odd records from the Nairobi area

indicate that 1-2 pairs are resident (several observers). Occasional records during 1977 from the Sokoke Forest (PLB). Two pairs resident at Mazumbai Forest Reserve, West Usambaras, northeast Tanzania May-Jun 1977 (DAT). All records of this species welcomed.

*Macheirhamphus alcinus* Bat Hawk: uncommon throughout its range. Records received from Mt Elgon, Moscho (Kisii district), Lake Baringo, Nairobi, Malindi, Mida Creek and Mtwapa Creek. All records welcomed.

#### FALCONIDAE Falcons

*Falco alopex* Fox Kestrel: 5 between Marsabit and Koobi Fora Aug 1976 and 4 between Loiyengalani and Koobi Fora Oct 1976

*Falco ardosiaecus* Grey Kestrel: 1 near the Satellite Tracking Station, Kedong Valley 26 Jun 1977 (DAT). All records in or east of the Rift Valley welcomed.

*Falco chicquera* Red-necked Falcon: 1 Amboseli National Park 5 Nov 1977 (DKR).

*Falco fasciinucha* Taita Falcon: 1 on 1 Mar 1977, Gol Mts, northeastern Serengeti, Tanzania (AG) and another 12 July 1977, Ngulia Safari Camp, Tsavo National Park (West) (HP).

#### RALLIDAE Rails and crakes

*Crex egregia* African Crane: many at Lake Baringo Jly-Aug 1977 (ADF-W, DAT) and 1 in Nairobi National Park 7 Sep 1977 (DAT).

*Gallinula angulata* Lesser Moorhen: a few pairs in the Thika area Dec 1976 and Jun-Jly 1977 (WJP) and a pair at Kabete in Jun 1977 on a newly filled pond (WPHD).

*Porphyrio alleni* Allen's Gallinule: many hundreds at Lake Baringo Jly-Aug 1977 (ADF-W, DAT), all vanishing shortly afterwards. Up to 30 at a small dam at Bamburi Apr-Sep 1977 (PLB). Regular in small numbers at Lakes Naivasha and Jipe (DAT).

*Porzana pusilla* Lesser Spotted Crane: 1-3 from a pond in the Thika area Jan-Mar 1977 (WJP).

*Sarothrura pulchra* White-spotted Crane: a few pairs regular during 1976/77 in swampy parts of Kakamega Forest (DAT) and also recorded from similar habitat at Nandi Hills on 5 Aug 1976 (JS).

*Sarothrura rufa* Red-chested Crane: 1 in a swamp, Nandi Hills 5 Aug 1976 (JS).

#### HELIORNITHIDAE Finfoots

*Podica senegalensis* Finfoot: recorded frequently at Hippo Pools, Nairobi National Park and occasionally from Mzima Springs, Tsavo National Park (West) by several observers. Also recorded at Amani, Tanzania Aug 1977 (CE).

#### OTITIDAE Bustards

*Neotis denhami* Jackson's Bustard: formerly fairly common and widespread in parts of the Mara Game Reserve but numbers have decreased considerably in recent years. 1 near Itong, Masai Mara 10 Mar 1977 (DAT) and 1-2 occasionally seen around the Gol Kopjies, eastern Serengeti, Tanzania (AG).

#### JACANIDAE Jacanas

*Microparra capensis* Lesser Jacana: reported from Moi's Bridge in Sep and Dec 1976 (JS), a few pairs present throughout the year at Lake Jipe (DAT), reported from Thika 14-16 Nov 1976 (WJP) and 1 seen on Crescent Island, Lake Naivasha 19 Dec 1977 (BSM).

**ROSTRATULIDAE Painted Snipe**

*Rostratula benghalensis* Painted Snipe: recorded from Nairobi National Park in Apr, May, Jly and Nov 1977 (several observers) and several at the Rift Valley Swamps behind the Ngong Hills Jly 1977 (DKR).

**CHARADRIIDAE Plovers**

*Vanellus crassirostris* Long-toed Lapwing: recorded from Lake Naivasha in Jun and Sep 1977 (BSM). All Kenya records away from the west and the lower Tana River welcomed.

**DROMADIDAE Crab Plover**

*Dromas ardeola* Crab Plover: 75+ normally present at Mida Creek Sep-Apr, dropping to 10-20 from May-Aug. Elsewhere along the coast only in very small numbers each Oct and Nov (PLB).

**GLAREOLIDAE Coursers and pratincoles**

*Cursorius cinctus* Heuglin's Courser: large numbers in Tsavo National Park (East and West) and especially so in the Lake Jipe area, Dec 1977 (DAT).

*Cursorius cursor* Cream-coloured Courser: widely distributed in Tsavo National Park (East) south to the Sala Gate, Sep 1977 (DAT).

*Glareola ocularis* Madagascar Pratincole: present at the Sabaki River mouth from 4 Apr to 30 Sep 1977 with a maximum of c.3500 on 12 Aug (PLB).

Also see *Scopus* 1: 94-97.

**LARIDAE Gulls and terns**

In addition to the following records, many others are included in *Scopus* 1: 29-34.

*Anous stolidus* Common Noddy: 40-50 with Roseate *Sterna dougallii* and Sooty Terns on Kisite Island 7 Aug 1976; no proof of breeding, but suggestive (HAB, PLB).

*Anous tenuirostris* Lesser Noddy: an addition to the Kenya and African avifaunas. All records are by PLB unless stated otherwise and are from his paper in *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 97: 54-56. 110-220, 5 Aug to 28 Sep 1976, Ras Iwetine (1 collected 31 Aug 1976) and 1 seen there on 2 Dec 1976. At least 50, 27 Oct 1976 at Ziwayu Island (R. Haller). At least 20, including one found dead, 10 Dec 1976 Kisite Island and PH had seen dozens at sea in the area between Sep and Dec 1976. The sole 1977 record is of 2 seen at Ras Iwetine on 29 Jly (HAB).

*Chlidonias hybrida* Whiskered Tern: birds building nests during Jun and to late Jly 1977 though whether breeding occurred is not known (JRB).

*Sterna anaethetus* Bridled Tern: up to 12 at Ras Iwetine 30 Aug - 9 Sep 1976 and 1 there on 4 Nov 1976 (HAB, PLB).

*Sterna fuscata* Sooty Tern: at least 100 on Kisite Island with breeding Roseate Terns, 7 Aug 1976, but no proof that the Sooties were breeding (HAB, PLB). An immature at the Sabaki River mouth, 24 Sep 1977 (HAB, PLB, WPHD).

**RHYNCHOPIDAE Skimmers**

*Rhynchops flavirostris* African Skimmer: up to 10 Sabaki River mouth from 17 Aug 1976 to 24 Feb 1977 and 3 there on 15 Aug 1977 (PLB); 2 Thika area 23 Nov 1976 (WJP), a few Lake Naivasha 28 Dec 1976 (DAT), 8-10 at Lake Nakuru 25 Sep 1977 (NBM), 1 Nairobi National Park 13 Nov 1977 (JFR) and a few Lake Jipe 15-18 Nov (ALA) and late Dec 1977 (JFR).

**COLUMBIDAE Pigeons**

*Columba arquatrix* Olive Pigeon: a few over Mazumbai, West Usambaras May -

June 1977, but oddly much more numerous at Amani, East Usambaras (at only 1000 m) Jly-Aug 1977 (DAT).

#### STRIGIDAE Owls

*Bubo poensis vosseleri* Nduk Eagle Owl: a juvenile found dead on the road near Amani, East Usambaras in 1977 and sent to the Department of Zoology, University of Dar es Salaam (KH).

*Glaucidium capense* Barred Owlet: resident in *Brachystegia* in Arabuko-Soko Forest (PLB, HAB). 1-2 pairs recorded at Iltital at the base of the Chyulu Hills (DAT).

*Glaucidium tephronotum* Red-chested Owlet: reported as locally common in the northwestern Mau Forest during Nov 1976 (JFMH, LLS), a considerable extension of range. 1 Kakamega Forest 28 Feb 1977 (WJP).

*Otus ireneae* Soko Scops Owl: approximately 7 pairs/km<sup>2</sup> on red magarini sands in the Arabuko-Soko Forest (PLB).

*Scotopelia peli* Pel's Fishing Owl: 7 sightings by the 1976 Tana River Expedition, mainly south of Garsen (see *EANHSS Bulletin* March-April 1977). 1 on the Tana River in Meru National Park 30 Aug 1976 (DKR) and 1 on the Mara River near Governor's Camp during Jly and Aug 1977 (DAT).

#### CAPRIMULGIDAE Nightjars

*Caprimulgus donaldsoni* Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar: 1 in heavy moult near Kilifi 1 Jly 1977 (MR), not previously recorded from the coast.

*Caprimulgus inornatus* Plain Nightjar: 1 Chiromo campus, Nairobi 29 Apr 1977 (AWD) and 1 Ngulia Lodge 7 Nov 1977 (DJP).

*Caprimulgus nubicus* Nubian Nightjar: 1 Ngulia Lodge 14 Dec 1976 (DJP).

*Caprimulgus poliocephalus* Usambara Nightjar: a few pairs (race *guttifer*) recorded at forest edge at Mazumbai, West Usambaras May-Jun 1977 (DAT).

#### APODIDAE Swifts

*Neafrapus boehmi* Böhm's Spinetail: occurs in Soko Forest (mainly *Brachystegia*) throughout the year (PLB). Several seen around Bushwhackers' Camp 19-20 Nov 1977 (DEP).

*Rhaphidura sabini* Sabine's Spinetail: 2 over Mt Elgon Lodge, near Kitale 22 Jly 1977 (BSM).

*Telecanthura ussheri* Mottle-throated Spinetail: regular in the Arabuko-Soko Forest throughout the year, but less common than *N. boehmi* (PLB). Recorded from both East and West Usambaras May-Aug 1977, though not previously recorded from the West (DAT).

#### ALCEDINIDAE Kingfishers

*Isipidina picta* Pygmy Kingfisher: a migrant to the Kenya coast from Apr to Sep. Retraps of ringed birds show that the Arabuko-Soko Forest is a wintering area for southern birds (race *natalensis*) and that these birds return to the same winter quarters (HAB, PLB). Also recorded from Dar es Salaam and Amani during Jly 1977 (DAT, CE).

#### MEROPIDAE Bee-eaters

*Merops nubicus* Carmine Bee-eater: a bird of the southern race *nubicoides* reported from the Kedong Valley near Kijabe, 10 Jly 1977

*Merops revoolii* Somali Bee-eater: 4 Manyani, Tsavo East, 30 Nov 1976 (RJD). All records from south of the Galana River welcomed.

#### INDICATORIDAE Honeyguides

*Indicator meliphilus* Pallid Honeyguide: 1 Pugu Hills near Dar es Salaam 17 Jly 1977 (DAT, JDG, KH) and 1 Shimba Hills, south of Mombasa, 19 Nov (ALA).



*Indicator narokensis* Kilimanjaro Honeyguide: collected near Fourteen Falls, Thika district June 1976. (J. Mwaki, for National Museum).

#### PICIDAE Woodpeckers

*Mesopicos griseocephalus* Olive Woodpecker: common at Mazumbai, West Usambaras May-Jun 1977 but scarce at Amani, East Usambaras Jly-Aug 1977 (DAT).

#### EURYLAIMIDAE Broadbills

*Smithornis capensis* African Broadbill: its occurrence in the West Usambaras (at Mazumbai) was confirmed Jun 1977 (DAT). Heard occasionally at Amani during Jly and Aug 1977 (DAT, CE). Records from central Kenya highlands welcomed.

#### PITTIDAE Pittas

*Pitta angolensis* African Pitta: extreme dates at the Kenya coast (several observers) are, 1976: 5 Jun - 11 Oct. 1977: 12 Jun - (no data).

#### ALAUDIDAE Larks

*Mirafra cantillans* Singing Bush Lark: unusual influxes to Tsavo West (Mtito Andei - Ngulia) and on the Emali plains mid-late Jan 1977 after good rains. However, did not appear in numbers after equally good rains Nov-Dec 1977 (DJP).

*Mirafra pulpa* Friedmann's Bush Lark: few near Voi Safari Lodge Jan 1977 (PCL), see *Scopus* 1: 34-39.

#### HIRUNDINIDAE Swallows

*Hirundo griseopyga* Grey-rumped Swallow: present throughout the year around Nakuru (DAT) and small numbers seen fairly frequently in the Ruaraka - Thika area (WJP).

#### CORVIDAE Crows

*Corvus splendens* Indian House Crow: Mombasa population spreading in recent years. Small numbers now at Kilifi and one seen at Malindi, Oct 1977 (PLB, DJP).

#### TIMALIIDAE Babblers

*Trichastoma pyrrhopterum* Mountain Illadopsis: netting in Dec 1977 showed it to be more common in the Malaba Forest than in the nearby Kakamega Forest (AWD).

*Turdoides aylmeri* Scaly Chatterer: a party of 5-6 near Salt Lick Lodge, Tsavo West 19 Sep 1977 (DAT).

*Turdoides hindei* Hinde's Babbler: recorded from numerous localities in the Murang'a - Embu districts of central Kenya, mainly in small valleys around 1500 m but sometimes in more open bush country. Inhabits bushy growth, often where the introduced *Lantana* is well established; occurs in small parties of 6-8 birds (WJP).

#### CAMPEPHAGIDAE Cuckoo-shrikes

*Coracina caesia* Grey Cuckoo-shrike: common at Mazumbai, West Usambaras 1350-1600 m May-Jun 1977 and at Amani, 900-1100 m Jly-Aug 1977 (DAT).

#### PYCNONOTIDAE Greenbuls

*Andropadus gracilis* Little Grey Greenbul: 1 netted Malaba Forest north of Kakamega in Dec 1977 (AWD).

*Andropadus importunus* Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul: examples of the race *fricki* recorded along the Thika river in Sep-Oct 1976 (WJP).

*Andropadus milanjensis* Stripe-cheeked Greenbul: Kenya records away from the Taita and Chyulu Hills welcomed. Common at Mazumbai, West Usambaras

May-Jun 1977 (DAT) and at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 (DAT, CE).

*Phyllastrephus cerviniventris* Grey-olive Greenbul: resident in small numbers in riverine forest along the Thika river and at Fourteen Falls, occurring on or near the ground in parties of 7-8 birds (WJP).

#### TURDIDAE Thrushes

*Alethe fuelleborni* White-chested Alethe: common at Mazumbai and Amani May-Aug 1977 (DAT).

*Dryocichloides montanus* Usambara Alethe: 1 in deep shaded forest at Mazumbai (1650 m) 27 May 1977 (DAT).

*Modulatrix orostruthus* Dappled Mountain Spot-throat: a total of only 4 netted at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 (CE).

*Modulatrix stictigula* Spot-throat: very common at Mazumbai May-Jun 1977 but decidedly uncommon at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 (DAT).

*Monticola rufocinerea* Little Rock Thrush: occasional records from Hell's Gate gorge, Naivasha (several observers). A few Mt Sebachi, Samburu District 27-28 Dec 1976 (HP). All records welcomed.

*Neocossyphus rufus* Red-tailed Ant Thrush: fairly common at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 (DAT, CE).

*Sheppardia sharpei* Sharpe's Akalat: fairly common at both Mazumbai and Amani May-Aug 1977 (DAT). Not previously recorded from the West Usambaras (Mazumbai).

*Turdus fischeri* Spotted Ground Thrush: extreme dates at the Kenya coast from several observers were, 1976: (17 Aug) - 13 Oct. 1977: 24 Apr - 24 Sep. Also see *Scopus* 2: 11-17.

*Turdus gurneyi* Orange Ground Thrush: fairly common at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 (DAT, CE).

#### SYLVIIDAE Warblers

*Apalis moreaui* Long-billed Apalis: small numbers present at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 (DAT, CE).

*Cisticola bodessa* Boran Cisticola: several around the Isiolo turn-off, Timau-Meru road, early Dec 1976 (RJD). See *Scopus* 2: 29-33.

*Eremomela scotops* Green-capped Eremomela: 5-6 near Fourteen Falls, Thika district 29 Jan 1977 (ADF-W, DAT).

*Macrosphenus kretschmeri* Kretschmer's Longbill: locally common at Mazumbai May-Jun 1977 (DAT).

*Orthotomus metopias* Red-capped Forest Warbler: very common at Mazumbai May-Jun 1977 (DAT). All records welcomed.

#### MUSCICAPIDAE Flycatchers

*Bias musicus* Black and White Flycatcher: one pair seen on occasions at Mazumbai at 1350 m May-Jun 1977 (DAT) and a few others seen at Amani (900 m) Aug-Sep 1977 (CE).

#### MOTACILLIDAE Wagtails and Pipits

*Arthus sokokensis* Sokoke Pipit: recorded regularly in small numbers in suitable habitat in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (HAB, PLB).

#### MALACONOTIDAE Bush Shrikes

*Laniarius fuelleborni* Fülleborn's Black Boubou: common at Mazumbai May-Jun 1977 (DAT).

*Laniarius ruficeps* Red-naped Bush Shrike: single bird seen 6 km east of Nguni on the Thika-Garissa road 12 Mar 1977 (DJP).

*Malacotus multicolor* Black-fronted Bush Shrike: records of the race *nigrifrons* as follows: common at Mazumbai and Amani May-Sep 1977 (DAT,

CE) and recorded near Nandi Hills, western Kenya Dec 1977 (JADC, PLB). All Kenya records welcomed.

#### LANIIDAE Shrikes

*Corvinella melanoleuca* Magpie Shrike: 2-3 south of the Telek River, Mara Game Reserve 21 Aug 1977 (PB).

#### STURNIDAE Starlings

*Spreo shelleyi* Shelley's Starling: several flocks on Galana Ranch 13 Nov 1976 and odd birds near Voi Nov-Dec 1976 (PCL).

#### NECTARINIIDAE Sunbirds

*Anthreptes pallidigaster* Amani Sunbird: fairly common in suitable habitat in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (PLB). Not uncommon at Amani Jly-Sep 1977, often in company with the next species (DAT, CE).

*Anthreptes rubritorques* Banded Green Sunbird: flock of 50+ seen daily at Muzumbai May-Jun 1977 (DAT) and also noted as fairly common at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 (DAT, CE).

*Nectarinia habessinica* Shining Sunbird: male at Lake Baringo 26 Aug 1977, probably at southern limit of range (VE). All records welcomed.

#### PLOCEIDAE Weavers

*Anomalospiza imberbis* Parasitic Weaver: a sporadic visitor in small numbers between Feb and Jly 1977 to the Thika area, parasitizing *Cisticola cantans*. One netted Kabete, Mar 1977 (DEGB, JD, WPHD, DJP).

*Euplectes diadematus* Fire-fronted Bishop: common and widespread throughout Tsavo West Dec 1976 - Jan 1977 following exceptionally heavy rains (DJP, GCB).

*Ploceus golandi* Clarke's Weaver: regular in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest from Aug-Oct, plus a group of about 20 on 7 Dec 1976 (PLB). All dated records of this species requested.

*Ploceus olivaceiceps* Usambara Weaver: the race *nicolli* recorded occasionally at Mazumbai between 1350 and 1600 m May-Jun 1977 (DAT). Otherwise known only from Amani (though no recent records) and the Ulugurus. All records welcomed.

#### ESTRILDIDAE Waxbills

*Estrilda atricapilla* Black-headed Waxbill: 5-6 at 3300 m on Mt Kenya, Sep 1976 (DAT).

*Lonchura fringilloides* Magpie Mannikin: a few at Amani Aug-Sep 1977 (CE). All records welcomed.

*Mandigoa nitidula* Green-backed Twin Spot: regular but uncommon at Sokoke (PLB), a pair seen in the Karura Forest, Nairobi 20 Feb 1977 (WJP) and small numbers seen at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 (DAT, CE).

*Spermophaga ruficapilla* Red-headed Bluebill: small numbers netted at Amani Aug-Sep 1977 (CE).

#### FRINGILLIDAE Buntings and Finches

*Emberiza cabanisi* Cabanis' Bunting: common at Amani Jly-Sep 1977 in open places (CE).

*Linurgus olivaceus* Oriole Finch: a few Kakamega Forest Station Oct 1976 (DS), small numbers at Mazumbai May-Jun 1977 (DAT) and a single female recorded at Amani 27 June 1977 (DAT, CE).

*Serinus reichardi* Stripe-breasted Seedeater: 1 on the Iten-Tambach escarpment 18 Dec 1977 (HAB, PLB, JADC). All records welcomed.

## PALAEARCTIC SPECIES

*Ciconia ciconia* White Stork: 15 during Jly 1976 near Eldoret (JRB).

*Ciconia nigra* Black Stork: Nairobi National Park, single birds on 1 Jan 1977 (BSM), 23 Jan 1977 (JFR), 12 Mar 1977 (BSM), 13 Apr 1977 (Ced) and 23 Oct 1977 (EB). Ngong, 1 on 30 Jan 1977 (DKR). Kiganjo, 1 on 12 Apr 1977 (DAT). Athi River, 1 on 30 Oct 1977 (DJP). Ol Donyo Sabuk, 1 on 13 Mar 1977 (WJP). Aberdare National Park, one circling over moorland on 5 Feb 1977 (WJP). Near Tsavo Gate (Tsavo West), 1 on 13 Nov 1977 (DJP).

Sightings during the last decade clearly show that the Athi catchment area is a regular wintering ground for this species in Kenya.

*Platalea leucorodia* European Spoonbill: Lake Naivasha, an adult from 30 Dec 1976 to 11 Feb 1977 (TK, BSM). This is the first East African record since 1969.

*Anas crecca* Teal: Ol Bolossat, two males on 30 and 31 Dec 1976 (AEB, WPHD). Lake Baringo, a male on 30 Dec 1976 (DJP). Gethumbwini Dam, Thika, two males from 14 Jan to 5 Mar 1977 (WJP).

*Anas penelope* Wigeon: Ol Bolossat, 1 on 27 Nov 1976 (JS), several on 30 and 31 Dec 1976 (AEB, WPHD) and a party of 16 on 5 Feb 1977 (DJP). Two on 31 Dec 1977 (DJP). At the Ewaso Nyiro swamp, 1 on 23 Feb 1977 (DKR, GRCvS). Six on a small lake between Nakuru and Ol Kalou on 31 Dec 1977 (BSM). Lake Nakuru, a female on 20 Dec 1977 (HAB, PLB). Lake Turkana, Ferguson's Gulf, a female on 26 Dec 1976 (DJP).

Recent recording has established that the Wigeon is an annual winter visitor in small numbers.

*Anas querquedula* Garganey: 1600 counted on a 0.3 ha dam at Makuyu during Mar 1977 (DJP) is an exceptionally large concentration for East Africa.

*Aythya ferina* European Pochar: Ol Bolossat, 2 males on 30 and 31 Dec 1976 (see *Scopus* 1: 21-22). Kisumu oxidation ponds, a male on 23 Dec 1977 (BSM, DJW, JKW).

There are only two previous records in Kenya.

*Aquila clanga* Spotted Eagle: Lake Naivasha, one in juvenile-type plumage on 16 Feb 1977 (BSM). The 7th Kenya record but still unrecorded from Tanzania.

*Aquila heliaca* Imperial Eagle: Machakos, a juvenile (possibly 2nd year) seen perched on the roadside at about 15m and later circling overhead on 7 Nov 1977 (DJP). Kabete, 1 in distinctive 1st-year plumage seen next to an immature Steppe Eagle *A. rapax orientalis* on 19 Nov 1977 (BSM). Tsavo West, Ngulia, another juvenile with Steppe Eagles seen on 20 Nov 1977 and what was considered by the observers as the same bird on 22 Nov 1977 at Mito Andei (JD, DJP).

*Aquila pomarina* Lesser Spotted Eagle: Nairobi National Park, 2 on 21 Nov 1976 (DKR). Ol Bolossat, at least 9 on 5 Feb 1977 and 2 more on the same day over a small lake at 2600m southwest of Nyahururu (=Thomson's Falls) seen by DJP. Rift Valley Swamp near Ngong, 1 on 20 Oct 1977 (DKR). Ewaso Nyiro swamp, Shomboli, 3 on 30 Oct 1977 (DKR). On 7 Nov 1977 single immatures were seen at Kibwezi and Kiboko (DJP). Ol Donyo Sambu, 14km north of Arusha, 3 on 25 Nov 1977 (per DAT).

This species has obviously been overlooked in the past and the recent surge of records probably reflects the advances made in field identification during the past few years.

*Buteo rufinus* Long-legged Buzzard: Karen, 1 on 19 Mar 1977 (DKR).

*Hieraaetus pennatus* Booted Eagle: Nairobi National Park, 1 on 31 Oct 1976



- (DJP). Tsavo East, Irima, 2 pale phase on 17 Nov 1976 (PCL). Tsavo West, Ngulia, a dark phase from 19-21 Nov 1976 was caught in a mist-net but escaped (DJP) and a pale bird on 1 Dec 1976 (RJD, DJP), and a dark as well as a pale phase on 12 Dec 1976 (AEB, WPHD, DJP). Taita Hills, Mwatate, 1 on 5 Dec 1976 (DJP). Kibwezi, a medium phase on 5 Dec 1976 (DJP). Ewaso Nyiro swamp, a pale phase on 23 Jan 1977 (GRCvS, DKR). Mito Andei, a medium phase on 20 Feb 1977 (DJP). Mara Game Reserve, a dark bird at Governor's Camp on 10 Mar 1977 (DAT). Nguni (Garissa Road), a pale phase on 13 Mar 1977 (DJP). Rift Valley swamp near Ngong, a pale bird on the unusual date of 20 Aug 1977 (DKR). Taita Hills, Bura, a dark phase on 3 Dec 1977 (BSM). Thika, pale birds on 19 Feb 1976, 16 Mar 1976 and 26 Mar 1977 (WJP). Sokoke Forest, a pale bird on 8 Dec 1977 (WJP).
- Pernis apivorus* Honey Buzzard: Wilson Airport, Nairobi, 1 at close range on 20 Oct 1977 (DKR). Thika, 1 on 3 Dec 1976 (WJP). Sokoke Forest, a dark bird on 3 Nov 1977 (WJP).  
Surprisingly this species is still rarely recorded in East Africa despite the increase in numbers of observers who regularly study Palaearctic raptors.
- Pandion haliaetus* Osprey: Rift Valley swamp, single bird(s) on 17 Jly and 6 Aug 1977 (BSM). Thika, 1 during Dec 1977 (WJP).
- Falco amurensis* Eastern Red-footed Falcon: Tsavo East, 2 males and a female on 4 Dec 1976 (PCL, DJP).
- Charadrius alexandrinus* Kentish Plover: Lake Turkana, Ferguson's Gulf, four with other plovers on the spit on 25 Dec 1976, a singleton on the west of the gulf the same day and 2 more on 26 Dec 1976 (DJP). Lake Magadi, 1 on 26 Mar 1977 (AEB, WPHD).  
This species was apparently absent from Ferguson's Gulf in Dec 1977.
- Charadrius dubius* Little Ringed Plover: Kariobangi Sewage Works, Nairobi, 1 on 10 Nov 1976 (DJP). Lake Turkana, Ferguson's Gulf, 7 on the west shore 25 Dec 1976 (DJP). Thika, Gethumbwini Dam, 1 on 4 Feb 1977 (WJP).
- Charadrius leschenaultii* Greater Sand Plover: INLAND RECORD: Lake Turkana, Ferguson's Gulf, 5 on 24 Dec 1976 (DJP).
- Charadrius mongolus* Mongolian Sand Plover: INLAND RECORD: Ferguson's Gulf present in small numbers from 23-28 Dec 1976 with a maximum count of 15 along the west shore on 25 Dec (DJP).
- Pluvialis dominica* Lesser Golden Plover: Lake Surgoit, Eldoret, 1 on 9 Oct 1976 (DEGB, WPHD, DJP). Ferguson's Gulf, west shore, 1 on the mud-flats with 70 Caspian Plovers *Charadrius asiaticus* on 25 Dec 1976 (DJP). Malindi Golf Course, 1 from at least 26 Sep 1976 to 20 Oct 1976 (JSA, HAB, PLB et al.).
- Pluvialis squatarola* Grey Plover: INLAND RECORD: Ferguson's Gulf, 1 from 25-26 Dec 1976 (DJP).
- Haematopus ostralegus* Oystercatcher: Tiwi Beach, 1 during early Sep 1976 (DAT). Shelley Beach, Likoni, 1 on 29 Jun and 4 Jly 1977 (HAB, PLB, MG).
- Phalaropus lobatus* Red-necked Phalarope: Tsavo East, Aruba Dam, 1 on 4 Oct 1976 (PCL).
- Arenaria interpres* Turnstone: INLAND RECORDS: Lake Naivasha, 2 feeding over decaying *Salvinia* on 29 Sep 1976 (TK, BSM) and 1 on 23 Sep 1977 (BSM). Lake Magadi, 1 ringed 26 Sep 1977 (DEGB, JD) and 1 seen the same day (DKR).
- Calidris alba* Sanderling: INLAND RECORDS: Tsavo East, Aruba Dam, singles on 20 Sep and 4 Oct 1976 (PCL). Lake Magadi, 2 on 26 Sep 1976 (DKR).

- Calidris temminckii* Temminck's Stint: Ferguson's Gulf, 3 on 25 Dec 1976 (DJP). Lake Baringo, 12 on 31 Dec 1976 (DJP). Thika, Gethumbwini Dam, 5 on 22 Jan 1977 (WJP). Ol Bolossat, 4 on 5 Feb 1977 (DJP) and 2 on 31 Dec 1977 (DJP). Lake Nakuru, 2 on 30-31 Dec 1977 (DJP).
- Gallinago media* Great Snipe: Tsavo East, Aruba Dam, up to 5, 14-18 Dec 1976 (WJP). Lake Naivasha, 1 on 23 Sep 1977 (BSM).
- Limicola falcinellus* Broad-billed Sandpiper: Sabaki River mouth, present from Aug 1976 (3 on 7th) until 4 Apr 1977 with a maximum of 13 on 24 Feb (HAB, PLB, DJP). During the second half of 1977 recorded there as follows: 1 on 12 Aug, 2 on 16 Sep, 3 on 24 Sep and 10 on 20 Oct (HAB, PLB). Lake Magadi, a female obtained (now in the National Museum) on 3 Oct 1976 (GCB, DEGB).
- Limosa lapponica* Bar-tailed Godwit: Lake Naivasha, 1 on 24 Jan 1977 (TK, BSM). Sabaki River mouth, 1 on three dates from 19 Oct - 21 Nov 1976 (HAB, PLB, DAT); 1 on 20 Oct 1977 (HAB, PLB). Mida Creek, 1 on 18 Aug 1976, 1 on 12 Sep 1976, 2 on 20 Oct 1976 (all HAB, PLB), 7 on 30 Sep 1977 (DJP) and 6 on 1 Oct 1977 (HAB, PLB, DJP). Nyali, singles on 6 Sep 1976 and 30 Sep 1977 (HAB, PLB). In Tanzania, SS reported a 'small flock' at Dar es Salaam on 15 Sep 1977.
- Limosa limosa* Black-tailed Godwit: Ferguson's Gulf, present from 23-28 Dec 1976 with a count of 55 on the west shore on 25 Dec (DJP); party of 72 there on 30 Dec 1977 (BSM, JKW). Lake Bilisa, 1 on 26 Feb 1977 (HAB, PLB). Lake Nakuru, 30+ on 29 Dec 1977 (JdR, FdM, JM, NvS). Lake Naivasha, 5 on 30 Nov 1976, 48 on 30 Dec 1976, 56 on 24 Jan 1977, 15 on 16 Feb 1977, 2 on 21 Mar 1977 (TK, BSM); 1 on 23 Sep 1977 (BSM). None was seen between October and the end of the year despite regular visits, probably because of exceptionally high water level. Kendu Bay, 1 on a seasonal lake on 4 Sep 1977 (CED). Amboseli, 1 on 20 Dec 1977 (DAT). Tsavo East, Aruba Dam, 2 on 9 Sep 1976 (PCL) and 1 from 15-17 Dec 1976 (WJP).
- Lymnocyrtus minimus* Jack Snipe: Lake Naivasha, 1 on 29 Sep 1976 (TK, BSM) and 1 at Thika on 10 Feb 1977 (WJP).
- Numenius arquata* Curlew: INLAND RECORD: Lake Magadi, 1 on 30 May 1976 and again on 5 Jun (JFR).
- Numenius phaeopus* Whimbrel: INLAND RECORD: Lake Naivasha, 3 on 24 Jan 1977 (TK, BSM).
- Tringa erythropus* Spotted Redshank: Lake Baringo, 7 on 31 Dec 1976 (DJP). Thika area, 1 on 13 Dec 1976, 1 on 16 Feb 1977 and 8 on 12 Mar 1977 (DJP, WJP). Aberdares at 3000 m, 1 on 5 Feb 1977 (WJP). Ol Bolossat, 2 on 27 Dec 1976 (JADC). Ahero, c.65 on 9 Feb 1977 and only 2 on 16 Feb (JADC). Lake Naivasha, 1 on 12 Dec 1976 (WJP). Lake Magadi, 3 on 7 Dec 1976, 1 on 26 Mar 1977 and 12 on 18 Apr 1977 (JFR). Amboseli, 3 on 20 Dec 1976 (JFR).
- Tringa totanus* Redshank: Lake Naivasha, 1 on 23 Sep 1977 (BSM). Lake Magadi, 1 on 5 June 1976 (JFR). Mida Creek, 2 on 14 Aug 1976 (WJP), singles on 18 Aug and 12 Sep 1976 (HAB, PLB), 2 on 2 Jan 1977 (JFR), 1 on 26 Jan 1977 (HAB, PLB); 2 on 21 Aug 1977 (WJP) and 3 on 30 Sep 1977 (HAB, PLB, DJP).
- Xenus cinereus* Terek Sandpiper: INLAND RECORDS: Lake Naivasha, 1 on 25 Oct 1977 (BSM). Tsavo East, Aruba Dam, singles on 4 Oct and 1 Nov 1976 (PCL). Lake Magadi, 1 ringed 3 Oct 1976 (GCB, DEGB) and 2 ringed on 16 Oct 1976 (GCB, DEGB, JD, WPHD).
- Larus argentatus* Herring Gull: Sabaki River mouth, 2 on 19 Oct 1976 (HAB,

PLB), 1 on 14 Jan 1977 (CC), 2 on 15 Jan 1977 and 4 on 24 Feb 1977 (HAB, PLB). Malindi Fish Market, 7 on 2 Dec 1976, 2 on 15 Jan 1977, 12 on 5 Feb 1977, 7 on 26 Feb 1977, 4 on 12 Mar 1977 and 6 on 6 Nov 1977 (HAB, PLB). Lake Turkana, Ferguson's Gulf, 1 on 24 and 26 Dec 1976 (DJP, see *Scopus* 1: 45-47).

*Larus fuscus* Lesser Black-backed Gull: LARGE CONCENTRATIONS: Ferguson's Gulf, c.300 around the spit from 23-28 Dec 1976 (DJP) and c.250 from 29-31 Dec 1977 (BSM). Largest coastal flock reported was c.50 at Malindi on 4 Apr 1977 (DJP).

*Larus genei* Slender-billed Gull: Lake Turkana, Ferguson's Gulf, an adult and a second year bird from 25-27 Dec 1976 (DJP, see *Scopus* 1: 45-47). Loyengalani (east side of Lake Turkana), 2 on 20 Dec 1977 (WJP).

These are the first records for Kenya and East Africa.

*Larus ichthyæetus* Great Black-headed Gull: Ferguson's Gulf, 3 sub-adults on 26 Dec 1976 and one there the next day (DJP, see *Scopus* 1: 45-47).

*Larus ridibundus* Black-headed Gull: the following records, from many observers, are given in chronological order.

Jly 1976: 2 at Sabaki River mouth from 3-31st, 1 at Lake Naivasha in breeding plumage on 29th.

Sep 1976: 1 at Sabaki on 11th and 25th.

Oct 1976: 1 at Sabaki on 19th.

Dec 1976: Ferguson's Gulf, c.450 from 23-28th, 80% were adult. Lake Naivasha, 5 on 30th. Malindi Fish Market, 1 on 2nd. Thika oxidation ponds, 2 on 18th.

Jan 1977: Sabaki, 22 on 15th. Malindi Fish Market, 2 on 15th. Thika oxidation ponds, 2 on 12th.

Feb 1977: Lake Nakuru, 15 on 5th and 25th. Lake Naivasha, 5 on 16th. Sabaki, 29 on 24th. Malindi Fish Market, 26 on 5th and 3 on 27th. Kilifi, 3 on 28th.

Mar 1977: Malindi Fish Market, 11 on 12th and 13th.

Apr 1977: Sabaki, 5 on 4th and 2 on 23rd and 29th.

Jun 1977: Lake Nakuru, 30, all in non-breeding plumage, on 19th. Sabaki, 2 on 25th.

Jly 1977: Lake Magadi, 1 on 3rd. Sabaki, 2 on 25th.

Aug - Oct 1977: Recorded only from Sabaki where 2-3 birds present throughout.

Nov 1977: Lake Naivasha, 3 on 21st. Sabaki, maximum, 4 on 6th.

Dec 1977: Ferguson's Gulf, c.600 from 29th to 31st. Lake Nakuru, 50 on 24th. Kisumu, 1 on 22nd and 2 on 23rd. Nairobi National Park, 5 on 26th.

*Sterna caspia* Caspian Tern: Usengi, Lake Victoria, 1 on 6 Feb 1977 (JADC).

*Sterna hiruudo* Common Tern: Dar es Salaam, 1 collected 27 Oct 1976 (KMH).

*Sterna sandvicensis* Sandwich Tern: Sabaki River mouth, 3 on 12 Aug 1976 (HAB, PLB) and 4 from 3-4 Sep 1976 (HP). Ras Ngomeni, 1 on 27 Sep 1976 (JSA). Ras Iwetine, 1 on 15 Feb 1977 (HAB, PLB).

There are only three previous records from East Africa, two of them from Kenya the other from Tanzania.

*Stercorarius pomarinus* Pomarine Skua: Lake Turkana, a pale phase bird at Ferguson's Spit from 30 Dec 1977 to 1 Jan 1978 (BSM, DJW, JKW).

This is the third record for Kenya and East Africa.

*Cuculus poliocephalus* Lesser Cuckoo: Ngulia, an immature ringed on 3 Dec 1976 was the first record for the site (GCB, DEGB, JD, PCL, DJP). Shimba Hills, 12+ on 3 Apr 1977 (HAB, PLB) and reported from coastal forests between 9 and 10 Apr 1977 (JDG) and on 19 Apr 1977 (WJP).

*Streptopelia turtur* Turtle Dove: Barsoloi, 1 from 16-19 Oct 1976 (JFMH, LLS. see *Scopus* 1: 50).

The first record for Kenya and East Africa.

*Caprimulgus europaeus* European Nightjar: ALL RECORDS RECEIVED: recorded only from Ngulia in Kenya, during 1976/77 season caught and ringed on 29 Nov (1), 3 Dec (2), 14 Dec and a late bird on 1 Jan. In the second half of 1977 11 between 5-7 Nov and 3 on 18-19 Nov (GCB, DJP).

Dar es Salaam, 1 collected 12 Apr 1977 (KMH).

*Coracias garrulus* European Roller: EARLY RECORD: Voi, 1 on 9 Oct 1977 (BSM).

*Jynx torquilla* Wryneck: above Nessuit Forest Station, near Njoro, 1 seen on 20 Dec 1976.

*Acrocephalus griseldis* Basra Reed Warbler: Tsavo East, Aruba Dam, 1 on 4 Dec 1976 (PCL, DJP) and from 2 to 4+ seen there between 15 and 17 Dec 1976 (WJP). Ngulia: 57 ringed between 16 Nov and 3 Dec 1976 and another 11 between 14 Dec and 1 Jan (GCB, DJP); 1 ringed on 13 Apr 1977 (HAB, PLB); 2 on 18 Nov 1977 and 12 (including 7 on 12 Dec) to end of year (GCB, DJP). Bamburi, singles ringed on 14 Nov 1976, 10 Jan 1977, 7 Apr 1977, 4 and 8 Dec 1977 (HAB, PLB).

*Acrocephalus palustris* Marsh Warbler: RECORD AWAY FROM S.E. KENYA: Kabete, 1 caught and ringed on 6 Mar 1977 was moulting and probably a wintering bird (DEGB, JD, DJP). NOTEWORTHY NUMBERS RINGED AT NGULIA: high daily totals included 250 on 10 Dec 1977, 497 on 12 Dec 1977, 237 on 18 Dec 1977 and 161 on 19 Dec 1977 (GCB, DJP).

*Hippolais languida* Upcher's Warbler: Nairobi, Kariobangi, 1 on 10 Nov 1976 (DJP). Ngulia, passage from 21 Nov 1976 to 17 Jan 1977 and 43 ringed (GCB, DJP); 5 ringed on 13 Apr 1977 (HAB, PLB); during the end of 1977 there was an early bird on 7 Nov and 7 between 10-18 Dec (GCB, DJP). Otherwise recorded in the Mito Andei area - widespread in small numbers on 23 Jan, 20 Feb and 1 Apr 1977 (DJP). Mwatate, Taita Hills, 1 on 5 Dec 1976 (DJP). Meru National Park, 1 on 3 Jan 1977 (HAB, PLB). Near Nguria, Garissa road, several birds found in two areas on 13 Mar 1977 (DJP). Voi, 2 in *Commiphora* woodland 18 km northwest of town on 20 Nov 1977 (DJP).

The Meru record is the first for the Park and, together with the Nguria sightings suggests that the middle reaches of the Tana catchment could be a wintering area for the species.

*Hippolais icterina* Icterine Warbler: 1 ringed on 7 Nov 1977 was the first record for Ngulia (DJP).

*Hippolais olivetorum* Olive-tree Warbler: Ngulia, 1 on 19 Nov 1976, 7 caught between 23-25 Nov and 3 on 29 Nov 1976; 15 ringed between 5 Nov and 12 Dec 1977 (GCB, DJP). Voi, 1 in *Commiphora* 15 km northwest of the town on 20 Nov 1977 (DJP).

An early migrant, confirmed again.

*Locustella fluviatilis* River Warbler: Ngulia, between 21 Nov 1976 and 25 Jan 1977 144 ringed, the majority 23 Nov to 24 Dec; the bird on 25 Jan 1977 was the latest to be recorded at Ngulia and had started wing moult (GCB, DEGB, JD, DJP). In late 1977 present from 7 Nov to end of year, maxima of 20 on 12 Dec and 20 on 15 Dec (GCB, DJP). Taita Hills, 3 at Bura and 2 at Mwatate on 5 Dec 1976 (DJP). Kambo, near Mito at least 3 on 15 Dec 1976 and 1 on 23 Jan 1977 (DJP). Makindu, 1 on 15 Dec 1976 (DJP). Kinyiki, near Mtito, 1 on 9 Dec 1977 (DJP, BT). Kinyang, 2 ringed on 25 Dec 1977 (JADC).

The poor numbers ringed during the 1977/78 season was probably caused by clear nights and/or a big moon during late November and the first



half of December, the peak passage time.

*Locustella naevia* Grasshopper Warbler: Nguruman Escarpment, 1 ringed and photographed on 19 June 1977 was the first record for East Africa (VCF, CCF and see *Scopus* 1: 84-86).

*Phylloscopus collybita* Chiffchaff: Nandi Hills, 1 ringed on 19 Feb 1977 (JADC).

*Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Wood Warbler: Ngulia, 1 ringed on 3 Dec 1976 was the first record for the site (GCB, DEGB, JD, PCL, DJP).

*Cercotrichas galactotes* Rufous Bush Chat: Baringo, 1 on 31 Dec 1976 (DJP). Ngulia, 27 ringed between 15 Nov and 3 Dec 1976 and then singles on 19, 20 and 28 Dec: 53 ringed between 5-7 Nov 1977 and only a further 8 between then and the end of the year (GCB, DJP). Tsavo East, widespread inside and outside the Park at Voi between 3-5 Dec 1976 and several at different sites on 20 Nov 1977 (DJP). Nguni, about 3 and 1 at two different sites on 13 Mar 1977 (DJP).

The species' status as an early migrant was properly proved for the first time at Ngulia in 1977.

*Irania gutturalis* Irania (White-throated Robin): 117 ringed at Ngulia between 15 Nov 1976 and 24 Jan 1977 (GCB, DEGB, JD, DJP); 1 ringed on 13 Apr 1977 (HAB, PLB). Occurred throughout from 5 Nov 1977 until 19 Dec with most at the beginning and end of this period, maxima 15 on 5 Nov and 17 on 18 Dec (GCB, DJP). Also several in the Mtito area on 16 Jan 1977 and 23 Jan 1977 (DJP). Voi and Taita Hills, common between 3-5 Dec 1976 and at Voi again on 8 Dec 1977 (DJP). Kitui-Mutomo, seen at two sites on 18 Feb 1977 and 3 seen and heard singing at Nguni on 13 Mar 1977 (DJP).

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Redstart: 1 ringed at Ngulia on 16 Jan 1977 was the first for the site (DJP).

*Saxicola rubetra* Whinchat: ALL RECORDS RECEIVED ARE PUBLISHED: Lake Nakuru, 1 on 20 Dec 1977 (HAB, PLB). Nanyuki, 1 on 24 Dec 1977 (HAB, PLB). Nairobi, Kenyatta University College, 1 on 5 Mar 1977 (DEP). Kisumu, 1 on 23 Dec 1977 (BSM, DJW, JKW).

#### ADDITIONS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS (PALAEARCTIC SPECIES)

*Ciconia nigra* Black Stork: Nairobi National Park, 1 on 26 Feb 1975 and 1 in Meru National Park on 29 Mar 1975 (DEW).

*Anas penelope* Wigeon: Lake Naivasha, 2 on 15 Feb 1976 (DEW).

*Aquila pomarina* Lesser Spotted Eagle: Lake Naivasha, an immature at a hippo carcass with Tawny and Steppe Eagles on 10 Feb 1975 (PA, DEW).

*Falco amurensis* Eastern Red-footed Falcon: Lake Naivasha, 2 males on 10 Feb 1975 (PA, DEW).

*Charadrius dubius* Little Ringed Plover: Lake Naivasha, 3 on 10 Feb 1975 (PA, DEW). Bushwhackers, Athi River, 1 on 31 Dec 1975 (HP).

*Calidris temminckii* Temminck's Stint: Lake Nakuru, 3 on 18 Mar 1975 (DEW). Lake Naivasha, singles on 10-12 Feb 1975 and 15 Feb 1976 (PA, DEW).

*Gallinago media* Great Snipe: Ahero, Kano Plains, 1 on 16 May 1976 (RB, CED).

*Limosa lapponica* Bar-tailed Godwit: Lake Naivasha, 2 on 15 Feb 1976 (DEW). Coraldene Beach, 2 from 17-18 Oct 1975 (DEW).

*Tringa totanus* Redshank: Mida Creek, 3 on 31 Jan 1976 (PA, DEW).

*Larus argentatus* Herring Gull: Malindi, 3 on 1 Feb 1976 (PA, DEW) and 5 on 4 Feb 1976 (DEW).

*Cuculus poliocephalus* Lesser Cuckoo: Gedi, 2 on 21 Apr 1975 (DEW).

*Hippolais olivetorum* Olive-tree Warbler: Seya River, between Wamba and Baragoi, 1 on 21 Sep 1975 (DEW).

*Cercotrichas galactotes* Rufous Bush Chat: Samburu Reserve, 4 between 23-24 Mar 1975 (DEW). Malindi, 1 on 18 Apr 1975 (DEW). Sabaki River mouth, 8 on 9 Feb 1976 was considered to be an arrival since the observer had not seen any along the coast during Jan and early Feb: also 2 at Twiga Lodge, south of Mombasa on 11 February 1976 (DEW).

The Ethiopian species records were compiled by D.A. Turner and P.L. Britton, the oceanic species by H.A. & P.L. Britton and the Palaearctics by B.S. Meadows. A list of observers who kindly supplied the records follows.

P. Agland	P. Hemphill
A.L. Archer	J.F.M. Horne
J.S. Ash	K.M. Howell
D.E.G. Backhurst	G.C. Irvine
G.C. Backhurst	T. Källqvist
J.R. Best	E. La Cour
P. Beverley	P.C. Lack
E. Bozniak	B.S. Meadows
R. Briggs	N.B. Miller
H.A. Britton	F. de Miranda
P.L. Britton	J. Mulder
A.E. Butterworth	D.J. Pearson
Cambridge Expedition to EA	H. Pelchen
J.A.D. Cape	W.J. Plumb
M. Carswell	D.E. Pomeroy
C. Carter	J. de Raad
G.R. Cunningham-van Someren	J.F. Reynolds
A.W. Diamond	D.K. Richards
J. Dirks	G. Rilling
A. Donnelly	M. Robbins
P.S. Donnelly	D. Schmidl
R.J. Dowsett	L.L. Short
W.P.H. Duffus	J. Squire
C. Eddy (=CED)	S. Stuart
V. Emanuel	B. Taylor
C.C. Fayad	D.A. Turner
V.C. Fayad	N. van Swelm
A.D. Forbes-Watson	D.J. Weston
A. Geerstsema	J.K. Weston
J.D. Gerhart	D.E. Wolf
M. Gillett	G. Zink